

What is Claimed is:

1. A method for facilitating a relocation comprising the steps of:

- providing a relocation database having stored performance data for a plurality of relocation service providers, said stored performance data including cost and quality,
- receiving user data from a user including at least one selected service and user preferences for each said selected service, and
- providing at least one service provider initial recommendation to said user for each said selected service, each said initial recommendation designating a service provider and including an estimated cost for said service provider and an estimated probability of said service provider successfully fulfilling said user preferences.

2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

- receiving modified user preferences in response to said initial recommendation from said user, and
- providing at least one service provider final recommendation to said user for each said selected service, each said final recommendation designating a service provider and including an estimated cost for said service provider and an estimated probability of said service provider successfully fulfilling said user preferences.

3. The method of Claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

receiving service provider new performance data
from said user after completion of each said selected
5 service,

combining said new performance data with said
stored performance data to refine said stored performance
data and to reduce dispersion of said stored performance
data.

4. The method of Claim 3 further comprising the
step of providing rewards to said user in response to
receiving said new performance data.

5. The method of Claim 1 wherein said estimated
probability is the product of a probability of writing a
contract with one said service provider and a probability
of executing said contract.

6. The method of Claim 5 wherein:

said stored performance data includes quoted
performance data and actual performance data for each
said service provider,

5 said probability of writing a contract for a
selected service is the probability that said quoted
performance data for at least one said service provider
fulfills each of said user preferences for said selected
service, and

10 said probability of executing said contract is
the probability that a said service provider having
quoted performance data that fulfills each of said user
preferences for said selected service will fulfill each
of said user preferences for said selected service.

7. The method of Claim 1 wherein said selected
service is selected from a group of services including
home selling assistance, home buying assistance, home
mortgage assistance, personal property shipping

- 5 assistance, temporary living assistance, and hookup and disconnect services.

8. The method of Claim 1 wherein said step of providing at least one service provider initial recommendation includes the substeps of:

- 5 comparing said user preferences to said stored performance data for each service provider for each said selected service, and
- selecting at least one said service provider with stored performance data that most closely fulfills said user preferences at the lowest said cost and highest
- 10 said quality for each said selected service.

9. A method for facilitating a relocation comprising the steps of:

- 5 providing a relocation database having stored performance data for a plurality of relocation service providers, said stored performance data including quoted performance data and actual performance data for each said service provider
- receiving user data from a user including at least one selected service and user preferences for each
- 10 said selected service, said selected service being selected from a group of services including home selling assistance, home buying assistance, home mortgage assistance, personal property shipping assistance, temporary living assistance, and hookup and disconnect
- 15 services,
- providing at least one service provider initial recommendation to said user for each said selected service including comparing said user preferences to said stored performance data for each service provider for
- 20 each said selected service and selecting as a selected service provider at least one said service provider with

stored performance data that most closely fulfills said
 user preferences at the lowest said cost and highest said
 quality for each said selected service, each said initial
 25 recommendation designating said selected service provider
 and including an estimated cost for said selected service
 provider and an estimated probability of said selected
 service provider successfully fulfilling said user
 preferences, said estimated probability being the product
 30 of a probability of writing a contract with one said
 service provider and a probability of executing said
 contract, said probability of writing a contract for a
 selected service being the probability that said quoted
 performance data for at least one said service provider
 35 fulfills each of said user preferences for said selected
 service, said probability of executing said contract
 being the probability that a said service provider having
 quoted performance data that fulfills each of said user
 preferences for said selected service will fulfill each
 40 of said user preferences for said selected service,
 receiving modified user preferences in response
 to said initial recommendation from said user, and
 providing at least one service provider final
 recommendation to said user for each said selected
 45 service, each said final recommendation designating a
 service provider and including an estimated cost for said
 service provider and an estimated probability of said
 service provider successfully fulfilling said user
 preferences,
 50 receiving service provider new performance data
 from said user after completion of each said selected
 service,
 combining said new performance data with said
 stored performance data to refine said stored performance

55 data and to reduce dispersion of said stored performance data, and

providing rewards to said user in response to receiving said new performance data.

10. Apparatus for facilitating relocation comprising:

a data storage device with a database having stored performance data for a plurality of relocation

5 service providers,

an input device,

an output device, and

a processor connected to said data storage device, said input device and said output device, and

10 operable to receive at least one selected service and user preferences for said selected service from said input device, said processor being operable to access said stored performance data to match said stored performance data to said user preferences and calculate a
15 service provider recommendation therefrom, and said processor being operable to calculate a probability of success of provision of said selected service and to transmit said service provider recommendation and said probability to said output device.

11. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 10 wherein said stored performance data includes quoted performance data and actual performance data for said service providers.

12. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said processor is operable to calculate said probability of success as the product of a probability of writing a contract and a probability of executing said
5 contract.

13. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 12
wherein:

said probability of writing a contract is the
probability that said quoted performance data for at
5 least one said service provider fulfills each of said
user preferences for said selected service, and

said probability of executing said contract is
the probability that a said service provider having
quoted performance data that fulfills each of said user
10 preferences for said selected service will fulfill each
of said user preferences for said selected service.

14. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 11
wherein said processor is operable to receive new
performance data for said service providers from said
input device and to combine said new performance data
5 with said actual performance data to refine said actual
performance data and to reduce dispersion.

15. The apparatus as set forth in Claim 11
wherein said processor is operable to match said quoted
performance data to said user preferences and select, as
said service provider recommendation, at least one said
5 service provider with quoted performance data that most
closely fulfills said user preferences at the lowest cost
and highest quality for each said selected service.

16. Apparatus for facilitating relocation
comprising:

a data storage device with a database having
stored performance data for a plurality of relocation
5 service providers, said stored performance data including
quoted performance data and actual performance data for
said service providers,

an input device,

an output device, and

10 a processor connected to said data storage
device, said input device and said output device, and
operable to receive at least one selected service and
user preferences for said selected service from said
input device, said processor being operable to access
15 said stored performance data to match said stored
performance data to said user preferences and calculate a
service provider recommendation therefrom,

said processor being operable to match said
quoted performance data to said user preferences and to
20 select, as said service provider recommendation, at least
one said service provider with quoted performance data
that most closely fulfills said user preferences at the
lowest cost and highest quality for each said selected
service,

25 said processor being operable to calculate a
probability of success of provision of said selected
service with said probability of success being the
product of a probability of writing a contract and a
probability of executing said contract,

30 said probability of writing a contract being
the probability that said quoted performance data for at
least one said service provider fulfills each of said
user preferences for said selected service, and

said probability of executing said contract
35 being the probability that a said service provider having
quoted performance data that fulfills each of said user
preferences for said selected service will fulfill each
of said user preferences for said selected service,

said processor being operable to transmit said
40 service provider recommendation and said probability to
said output device, and

said processor being operable to receive new performance data for said service providers from said input device and to combine said new performance data
45 with said actual performance data to refine said actual performance data and to reduce dispersion.